

COLLOQUY

Anil, who recently acquired a large collection of Word Ways back issues, adds several examples to V-W homophonic pairs such as *vet-wet* or *vicar-wicker* in the August 1972 article "If Vicious Ver Horses..". All are in the Macquarie Australian Dictionary except for *vac-WAC*, in the Random House Unabridged.

V/Vee-we/wee, vie-wye, vied-wide, vier-wire, vies-wise, vac(vacation)-WAC (Women's Army Corps), vase-was (British pronunciation), vees/v's-wees/wheeze, vim-whim, volley-wally (British for 'a fool'), vegie-wedgie (wedge-tailed eagle, or painful men's pants pull up), vox-woks

He also corrects a spelling in the 1972 article: *wier* should have been *weir*. "Be warned, there is no statute of limitations on spelling crimes!"

Rex Gooch notes that Christopher McManus need not resort to French for BETE (with a circumflex) in "Compass Curios". It is a headword in the OED, being an obsolete spelling of beat or beef, and also a verb with five meanings such as "to make good". He enlarges Chris's two seven-squares on COMPASS with these nine-squares on COMPASSES:

C O M P A S S E S	OED compass
O V E R C H A N T	Web 2, below the line
M E L O C A N N A	Melocanna genus, Gramineae family (monocot)
P R O M E R G E R	Web 2, below the line
A C C E L E R A T	OED accelerate 1a (1601q)
S H A R E C A S H	share-cash, OED share-crop (1925q)
S A N G R A D O R	Chambers Sangrado (not capitalized)
E N N E A S O M E	OED hexa- set of 9 chromosomes (1921q)
S T A R T H R E E	star-three, OED spartum (1841q)

C O M P A S S E S	OED compass
O V E R S T U N K	Chambers over- (no hyphen)
M E L O C A N N A	Melocanna genus, Gramineae family (monocot)
P R O V E N D E R	OED provender
A S C E N D E R E	OED light vb (1570q)
S T A N D A R D S	OED standard
S U N D E R M A N	OED nephor- (1970q) (a family name)
E N N E R D A L E	OED chimney 8 (1871q)
S K A R E S N E S	OED scarceness 3b (1508q)

Having read Susan Thorpe's "Singularly Imperfect Tautonyms", Ed Wolpow recommends Nils Thun's *Reduplicative Words in English*, a thesis published in 1963 by Carl Bloms Boktryckeri A.-B., Lund, Sweden. From the University of Uppsala, Thun comprehensively (347 pages) studied any type of English tautonym or near-tautonym he was able to encounter. Examples:

DRIPPITY-DROPPITY (16-letter 3w) from the English Dialect Society, meaning the game of drop the handkerchief

EQUAL-AQUAL in Webster's Second, meaning share and share alike

IMAKY-AMAKY, Scottish dialect for “ant”

The longest entry he noted was MARAMDAMIN-MARANDAMING (actually a curtailment), Tagalog for “very sensitive”. More than five pages are devoted to the 25 variants of PAXWAX, a neck ligament in as quadruped!

The internally reduplicative word REDUPLICATIVE is to be found in the name of a fascinating neurological condition called REDUPLICATIVE PARAAMNESIA OF KLEIST (yes, some wimps prefer the spelling ‘paramnesia’). In this condition, the patient is convinced that the physical world around him—his home, for instance—is a cleverly constructed duplicate of his own home, but is certainly different from his real home. (Related to this is the CAPGRAS SYNDROME, in which the patient is convinced that people close to him—family, friends—are quite cleverly dressed and coached but not the real thing.)

Rex Gooch writes “Darryl Francis’ list of anagrams [of British place names] contains some very apposite pairings. I especially liked the one for John Prescott, the present Deputy Prime Minister, famous for his two Jaguars and for punching a member of the public: PRESCOTT PROTECTS.”

Anil notes that a handful of the anagrams in “Definitive Anagrams: A-C” previously appeared in *The New Anagrammasia* (Word Ways Monograph 2) which he recently acquired: agony, airfields, ancestors, antiquated and aslumber (deep slumber) and the antigrams of amounts, anterior and commendation.

Rex Gooch writes “I am happy with Susan Thorpe’s nomenclature for her Singularly Imperfect Tautonyms, but I wish she had referred to them as types. Her use of ‘order’ would preclude its use for higher-order examples, in which 2,3,4.. pairs of letters are involved.”

Darryl Francis notes a new AEGINRST transposal: RINGESTA, a place in Scotland near the village of Quendale, in the Shetland Isles. There are 30 references to this on the Internet. In some atlases this is spelled RINGASTA.